

CLAIMS

1. Machine for gathering products such as grass, hay
or straw, which lie on the ground, comprising in
5 particular a main frame (1) bearing a first lateral
gathering device (14) with which a first windrowing
device (15) is associated and a second lateral
gathering device (16) with which a second
windrowing device (17) is associated, **characterized**
10 **in** that the main frame (1) additionally bears a
central gathering device (18) with which a third
windrowing device (19) is associated and in that
said central gathering device (18) and said third
windrowing device (19) can be moved relative to the
15 frame (1) in such a way that they can be transposed
into a first position in which they are aligned
with the first and second gathering devices (14 and
16) and windrowing devices (15 and 17) and are
substantially adjacent to these and into at least a
20 second position in which they are offset relative
to said first and second gathering devices (14 and
16) and windrowing devices (15 and 17).
2. Machine as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in**
25 **that** the central gathering device (18) and the
third windrowing device (19) can be offset
heightwise.
3. Machine as claimed in claim 1 or 2, **characterized**
30 **in** that the central gathering device (18) and the
third windrowing device (19) are connected to the
main frame (1) by means of a lift mechanism (22).
4. Machine as claimed in claim 3, **characterized in**
35 **that** the lift mechanism (22) is made up of
connecting arms (23, 24 and 25) which are
articulated to the main frame (1) by means of axes
(28) that are substantially horizontal and
perpendicular to the direction of forward travel

(A) and articulated to the third windrowing device (19) which is connected to the central gathering device (18), by means of axes (29) that are substantially horizontal and perpendicular to the direction of forward travel (A).

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5. Machine as claimed in claim 4, **characterized in** that the lift mechanism (22) comprises at least one hydraulic ram (26, 27) which is articulated to the main frame (1) and to a connecting arm (23, 25).

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6. Machine as claimed in claim 4, **characterized in** that the connecting arms (23, 24 and 25) lie in two planes (B and C) that are offset relative to one another in the heightwise direction.

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7. Machine as claimed in claim 6, **characterized in** that the lift mechanism (22) comprises three connecting arms (23, 24 and 25) of which two (23 and 25) lie in the same plane (B) and of which the third (24) lies in the second plane (C).

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8. Machine as claimed in claim 7, **characterized in** that the third arm (24) lies substantially at equal distances from the other two arms (23 and 25).

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9. Machine as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in** that deflectors (32, 33, 34) for guiding the displaced products are arranged on the rear sides of the windrowing devices (15, 17 and 19).

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10. Machine as claimed in claim 9, **characterized in** that associated with the third windrowing device (19) is a deflector (34) that can be moved relative to said windrowing device (19).

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11. Machine as claimed in claim 10, **characterized in** that the deflector (34) can be moved automatically

between a substantially vertical position that it occupies when the central gathering device (18) and the third windrowing device (19) are in the first position, and a substantially horizontal position that it occupies when they are in their second position.

12. Machine as claimed in claim 11, **characterized in** that the deflector (34) is flexible and in that it is fixed at one of its ends to the third windrowing device (19) and at its other end to the main frame (1).

13. Machine as claimed in claim 12, **characterized in** that the deflector (34) passes over two rollers (35 and 36) of which one (35) is fixed relative to the main frame (1) and the other (36) can move along the main frame (1).

14. Machine as claimed in claim 13, **characterized in** that the moving roller (36) is mounted on lateral supports (37) that can move on guides (38) fixed to the main frame (1).

15. Machine as claimed in claim 14, **characterized in** that at least one lateral support (37) is connected to a draw-spring (39).

16. Machine as claimed in claim 11, **characterized in** that the deflector (34) is rigid and in that it is articulated at one of its ends to the third windrowing device (19) by means of an axis (40).

17. Machine as claimed in claim 16, **characterized in** that the other end of the deflector (34) is guided by means of a roller (41) on a rail (42) fixed to the main frame (1) with a view to causing said deflector to move between the substantially

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vertical position and the substantially horizontal position.